

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 2, please delete the title and add the following amended title and paragraph, as follows:

SHUTTLE CAR WITH FIXED HEIGHT DISCHARGE BOOM

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/380,061, filed April 2, 2003, pending; which application is the national phase of PCT/US01/28369, filed September 13, 2001; which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/230,933, filed September 13, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/238,016, filed October 6, 2000, the entire contents of which are herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9, as follows:

One function that always must be performed during mining is to transport mined material from the point of mining to a point of discharge, such as into a feeder device which ultimately transports the mined material to the mine mouth. Starting at least as early as the 1940's (e.g., see U.S. Patent Nos. 2,192,650; ~~2,558,341~~^{2,588,341} and 3,370,667), this was accomplished utilizing a battery powered vehicle with a central conveyor. In order to maximize production level and equipment utilization, it was customary to use two or more shuttle cars that were loaded and discharged alternatively. The flexibility of the movement of the shuttle car is important as it requires travel through the labyrinth maze of a mine. In commercial embodiments, shuttle cars were powered by a 300 amp hour storage battery mounted at one end of the shuttle car. It soon

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became apparent, however, that a battery, the size and capacity of which had been dictated by the constraints of the vehicle configuration, mining dimensions, and other technology of the time, coupled with the realities of weight and balance, was an impractical energy source in production mining environment.